

Message Text

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FOR HA/LOWMAN FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN

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SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: UPCOMING CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

1. THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS, BASED ON BOB OAKLEY'S NOTES, MAY BE USEFUL FOR OUR TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CITIZENSHIP, IMMIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL LAW JANUARY 24.

2. INTERNATIONALIZATION: AS A RESULT OF OUR OWN EFFORTS, INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY, AND HUMANITARIAN CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE COUNTRIES THEMSELVES, INCREASED INTERNATIONALIZATION HAS MARKED THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROBLEM SINCE THE SUMMER OF 1977. THE SIGNIFICANT FRENCH PROGRAM CONTINUES AT THE PACE OF APPROXIMATELY 1000 A MONTH THAT IT HAS MAINTAINED SINCE MAY 1975. AUSTRALIA INITIATED A PROGRAM IN SEPTEMBER 1977 DESTINED TO TAKE IN APPROXIMATELY 1800 REFUGEES WITHIN ONE YEAR'S TIME. AUSTRALIA ADDITIONALLY HAS WELCOMED OVER 1000 INDO-CHINESE WHO HAVE MADE THE LONG SEA VOYAGE TO DARWIN AND OTHER POINTS ALONG THE NORTHERN AUSTRALIAN COAST, AND COMPLETED IN DECEMBER A RUSH PROGRAM OF ACCEPTING AN ADDITIONAL 1087 REFUGEES FROM CAMPS IN MALAYSIA. CANADA HAS ANNOUNCED A PROGRAM OF ACCEPTING 450 REFUGEES, BUT THE CANADIAN PROGRAM HAS YET TO GET SUBSTANTIALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNDERWAY,. BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND NOVEMBER OF 1977, NEW ZEALAND ACCEPTED SOME 420 REFUGEES, AND DENMARK 52. THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAS ESTABLISHED A QUOTA FOR 200 REFUGEES, BELGIUM 150 AND THE NETHERLANDS 60. SWITZERLAND OFFERS SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR INDO-CHINESE, OR OTHER REFUGEES, WHO HAVE SEVERE MEDICAL OR MENTAL PROBLEMS. WHILE, LIKE SWITZERLAND, NORWAY HAS SET NO QUOTA, IT HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY GENEROUS IN ACCEPTING REFUGEES

THAT NORWEGIAN SHIPS PICK UP ON THE HIGH SEAS.

3. REGIONAL HOSPITALITY: DURING THE RECENT VISITS OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY AND MYSELF TO SEVERAL SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES, WE HAVE URGED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS, THAT THESE COUNTRIES PROVIDE TEMPORARY ASYLUM TO REFUGEES ARRIVING BY SEA.

4. REGULAR INTAKE. CONTINUING PROGRAMS FOR SYSTEMATIC INTAKE OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES BY FRANCE, THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA, AND OTHER COUNTRIES ARE ESSENTIAL TO PERSUADE COUNTRIES OF TEMPORARY ASYLUM TO PROVIDE HOSPITALITY TO BOAT CASE ARRIVALS, AND THUS AVOID LARGE SCALE DROWNINGS AT SEA.

5. REGULARIZATION OF THE U. S. PROGRAM: WE WISH TO REGULARIZE THE U.S. PROGRAM FOR INDOCHINESE, AS WELL AS OTHER REFUGEES, THROUGH PERMANENT LEGISLATION SO AS TO AVOID THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY REPEATED REQUESTS FOR PAROLE.
WHITEHOUSE

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